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*Testimony in opposition to HB 5730*

**AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS.**

I am writing as a Nurse Practitioner in the school based health clinics of the Hartford Public schools. Our services are accessed by hundreds of students each day for both routine and sick day care. These services are provided at no cost to the student, though we do currently bill HUSKY for services for those children who are insured under this system.

The problem requiring third party reimbursement surrounds the issues of co-pays. If one bills an insurance company without collecting the co-pay, it is seen as fraudulent practice. In order to see any child with a private insurance we would need to either bill the parent or expect payment at time of service, which would require more staff to handle the money, do the banking, bill the insurance company etc. It would then also raise the issue of providing care for the uninsured in order to provide equity within the system.

If a system were put in place that eliminates the need for co-pays for school based health centers, I would have no opposition to the requirement. We do great work and being reimbursed would certainly give us a larger budget to expand our work.

Thank you